

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 IO-13 L-03 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
/071 W

-----221418Z 039325 /41

R 212250Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4394

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 1009

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: EAID, ECON, HA
SUBJECT: DONOR ASSISTANCE COORDINATION IN HAITI

REF: STATE 058497

1. AT INVITATION OF IDB REP (SCIOVILLE-SAMPER), REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCE INSTITUTIONS WITH PROGRAMS IN HAITI AND BILATERAL DONORS MET INFORMALLY MARCH 16 TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND INFORMATION IN PREPARATION FOR ACOORDINATION MEETING CONVENED MARCH 20/21 BY CONADEP. NO GOH REPS WERE PRESENT, SO EXCHANGES WERE FRANK. BROAD MEASURE OF AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT FOLLOWING PROBLEMS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED, EITHER AT MARCH 20/21 MEETING OR IN JUNE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING:

(A) ROLE OF CONADEP IN COORDINATION PROCES. IT WAS GENERALLY FELT THAT CONADEP FELL FAR SHORT OF PERFORMING AN EFFECTIVE COORDINATING ROLE (SECTORAL MINISTRIES TYPICALLY SOUGHT TO BYPASS OR BLOCK CONADEP REVIEWING AUTHORITY) AND THAT CONADEP'S CAPACITY TO CARRY OUT ITS MANDATE SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY STRENGTHENED. IDB REP PLANS RAISE THIS ISSUE IN MARCH 20/21 MEETING.

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(B) CONSTRAINTS ON DEVELOPMENT DERIVING FROM LACK OF TRAINED HAITIAN COUNTERPARTS. REPS AGREED THAT UNLESS GREATER EFFORTS WERE MADE TO FOCUS GOH ATTENTION ON THIS HUMAN RESOURCES BOTTLENECK, PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION WOULD BE INCREASINGLY JEOPARDIZED.

(C) NEED FOR SALARY INCREASES. REPS FEARED THAT PRACTICE OF GRANTING SELECTIVE SALARY SUPPLEMENTS TO SPECIFIC ORGANIZATIONS OR ELEMENTS

OF MINISTRIES WAS DAMAGING TO BUREAUCRATIC MORALE GENERALLY AND WAS CREATING UNDESIRABLE COMPETITION AMONG DONORS. A COHERENT PROGRAM FOR SALARY INCREASES IN KEY DEVELOPMENTAL MINISTRIES, REPS AGREED, SHOULD BE PRESSED UPON GOH.

(D) EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE PROJECTS. REPS OBSERVED THAT OFTEN GOH WOULD DELIBERATELY MAKE IDENTICAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS TO SEVERAL DONORS WITH AVOWED AIM OF "TAKING WHICHEVER IS QUICKEST." DUPLICATION AND WASTED EFFORT, E.G., IN PARALLEL PRELIMINARY STUDIES, ENSUED. ONE SUGGESTION WAS THE CONADEP ISSUE CONCISE MONTHLY INFORMATION BULLETIN ON ALL PROJECTS CURRENT OR PENDING. NEW RESIDENT OAS ADVISOR TO CONADEP (BOREL) OFFERED TO HELP.

2. SEVERAL REPS EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT DONOR COORDINATION WOULD BE IMPROVED IF IBRD COULDS ASSIGN A RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO HAITI.

3. COMMENT. MEETING REVEALED THAT IN CONTRAST TO SATISFACTION ON COORDINATION RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY PARENT ORGANIZATIONS IN WASHINGTON (REFTEL), RESIDENT REPS FEEL NEED FOR FRANK TALK WITH GOH ON IMPROVING COORDINATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. WE WILL REPORT ON DEGREE TO WHICH THIS MOOD IS TRANSLATED INTO PROCEEDINGS AT CONADEP COORDINATION MEETING MARCH 21/22.

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